

The Clerk of the Circuit Court Historic Records & Deed Research Division



Gary M. Clemens, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Eric Larson, Historic Records Manager

Mailing address:

13 E. Market St.

Leesburg, VA 20178

Phone: 703-737-8775

Website: Loudoun.gov/clerk

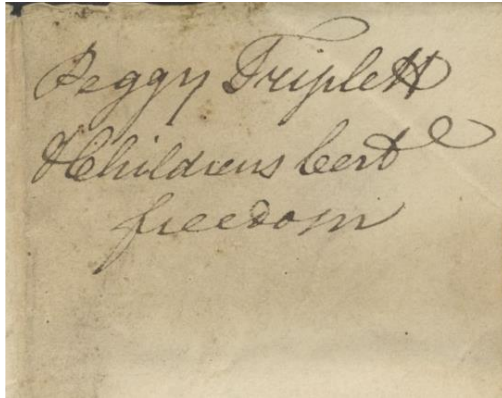


Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens
Historic Records & Deed Research Division

Tonight's Program



Expanded Access to History: Digitization of Loudoun's Free Black and Enslaved Papers 1757-1865



I: Eric Larson, Historic Records Manager of the Clerk of the Circuit Court Historic Records Division will discuss the preparation, conservation and digitization of Loudoun's Free Black records for research.

II: Dr. Sheri Ann Huerta, from George Mason University will discuss a few case studies locating family history in the Loudoun County court records, information about enslaved lives, and what the documents tell us about the nature of freedom in a slave society. Dr. Huerta is the author of: *A Great Uneasiness In Our County: Slavery and Its Influence on Family and Community Stability in Northern Virginia, 1782-1860*.

III: Questions and Answers

IV: Program Survey



Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens
Historic Records & Deed Research Division

The Project Beginnings



With the inception of an archive's division in 2004, staff began to flat file, perform in-house conservation, and index the county's Free Black and Enslaved records. Staff reviewed thousands of court judgment packs to remove freedom certificates, deeds, wills, tax records, civil cases, and criminal judgments regarding members of the Free Black and Enslaved community.



Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens
Historic Records & Deed Research Division

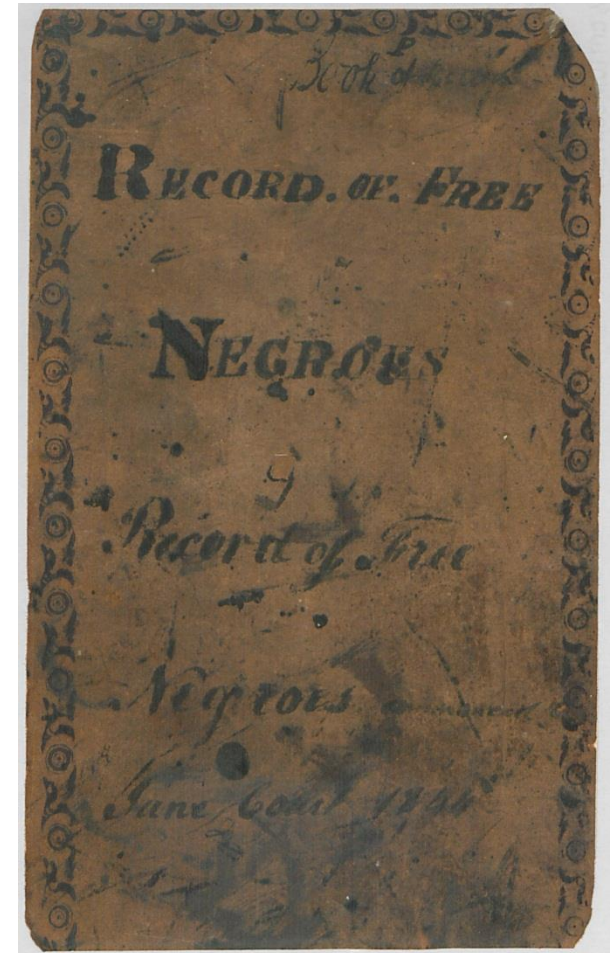
The Project Beginnings



The Mission of the Clerk of the Circuit Court Historic Records and Deed Research Division “For All To See” digitization project is to provide online access to Loudoun’s Free Black and Enslaved court records. The goal of the digitization program is: 1) Provide primary sources on Loudoun’s Free Black and Enslaved community for individuals, genealogists, and scholars. 2) Define the Birth, Life and Death experiences of Loudoun’s Free Black and Enslaved community in pre-Civil War Virginia and American society.

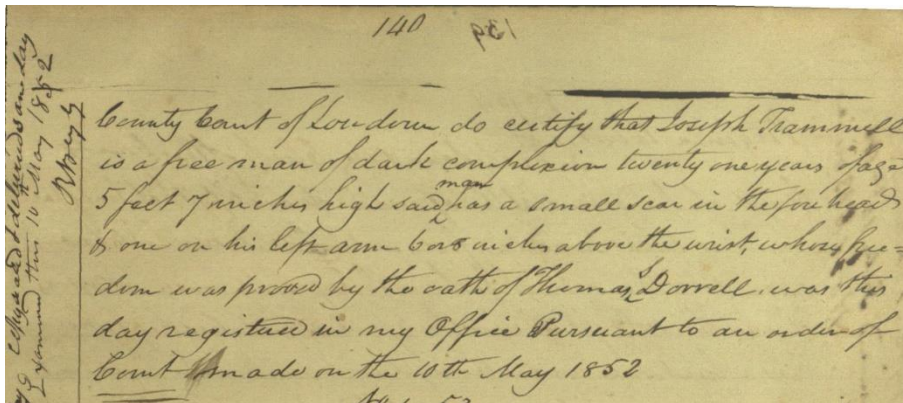
Number of Free Black Records Discovered

- Commonwealth (Criminal)-447
- Free Black Papers (Judgments, deeds, wills, and misc. court records)-4,008
- Free Black Births-280
- Free Black Marriages-38
- Free Black Deaths-141
- Record of Free Negroes 1844-1861-1,160



Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens
Historic Records & Deed Research Division

Where did we find the Free Black Records



Joseph Trammell's Freedom Certificate, 1852

Court Judgment Packets

- Indenture/Bound Children
- Criminal Cases
- Wills
- Deeds
- Marriage Records
- Road Cases
- Chancery Records
- Civil Judgements

Court Order Books

- Record of Free Negroes 1841-1861
- Birth and Death Records



Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens
Historic Records & Deed Research Division

Judgment Packets



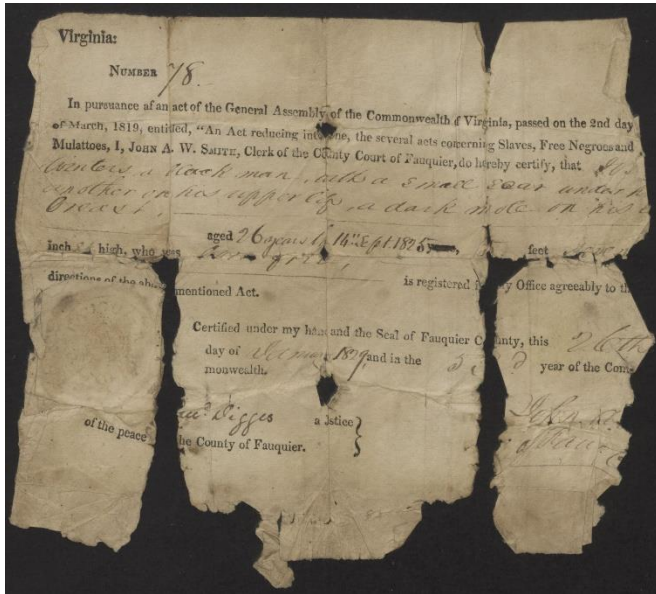
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens
Historic Records & Deed Research Division

Preservation



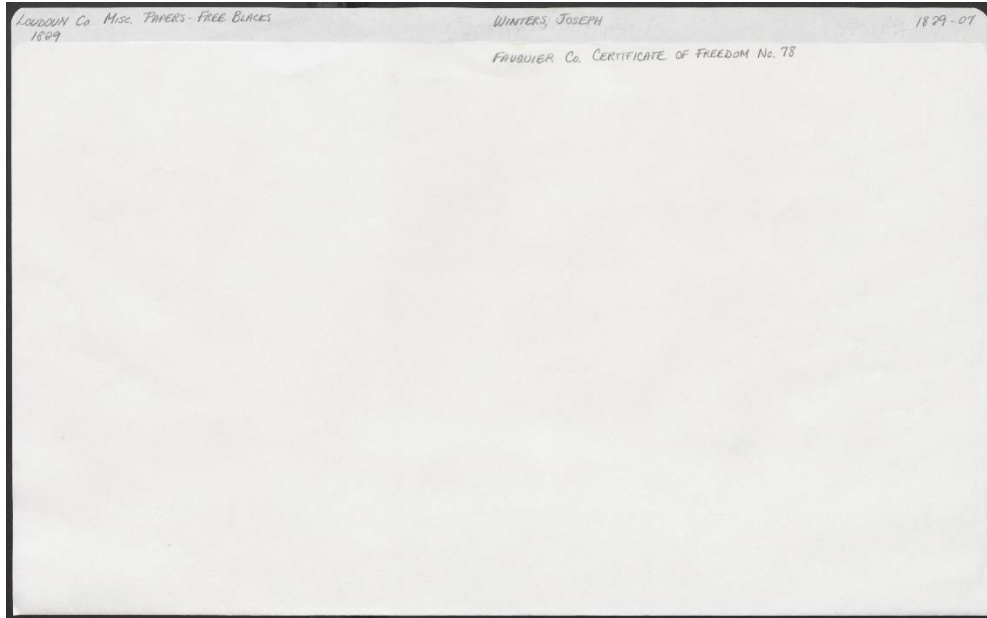
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens
Historic Records & Deed Research Division

Preservation



Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens, Clerk
Historic Records & Deed Research Division

Indexing and Storage



Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens
Historic Records & Deed Research Division

Indexing



Record of Free Negroes Index (Checked by AF and SM).xlsx - Excel

FILEHOMEINSERTPAGE LAYOUTFORMULASDATAVIEWVIEW

Cut

Copy

Format Painter

Clipboard

Times New Roman

10

A

A

Font

Alignment

General

Wrap Text

Number

Normal

Bad

Good

Neutral

Calculation

Check Cell

Explanatory T...

Input

Linked Cell

Note

Conditional Formatting

Cells

Editing

D2

Aaron- child of Susan Fields

	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
1	Name1	Race	Sex	Age	Certificate Number	Emancipated By	Physical Characteristics	Page	Misc. Names & Relationships									
1067	Thorton, Franklin	Black	Male	22 years	1580		Dark complexion and 6 feet 1 1/2 inches tall with a faint scar on the forehead, a scar on the back of the left hand, and a large scar occasioned by a burn on the top of his left foot	79	Proved to be free by the affirmation of Joshua Pusey									
1068	Thorton, James Douglass	Black	Male	20 years	2242		5 feet 5 inches tall and of a black color with a small scar on the left cheek or side of his face and a very small scar on his neck in front	171	Proved to be free by the oath of Seth Smith									
1069	Thorton, Phillip	Black	Male	65 years	1672		Dark complexion, 5 feet 5 inches tall, and has lost the end of his middle finger of the left hand and the finger next to it is crooked	113	Proved to be free by the oath of Charles Powell									
1070	Thorton, Welby Debuts	Black	Male	17 years	2241		5 feet tall with a light black color, a scar near the neck, a scar on the left hand near the thumb, and a scar on the forehead	171	Proved to be free by the oath of Seth Smith									
1071	Throckmorton, Samuel	Black	Male	55 years	1420	Charles B. Hamilton	Very dark complexion and 5 feet 9 3/4 inches tall with a plain scar on the forehead two inches long	57	Proved to be free by the oath of Samuel Price									
1072	Timbers, Ann (Formerly Ann Bird & Ann Staunton)	Mulatto	Female	37 years	2255		5 feet 3 inches tall with a mole on the right side of the neck	269	Proved to be free by the oath of Catharine Wilt and mother of Jonathan A. Bird, Samuel Bird, Lydia Ellen Timbers, Sarah J.F. Bird, and Benjamin Timbers									
1073	Timbers, Ann Maria- Margaret Timbers	Bright Mulatto	Female	6 years	1593		None	84	Proved to be free by the oath of Margaret Dorrell and daughter of Margaret Timbers									
1074	Timbers, Betsy	Very Dark Mulatto	Female	29 years	1398		Over 5 feet tall with a scar on the right arm and another on her chin	48	Proved to be free by the oath of Margaret Dorrell									
1075	Timbers, Betsy- child of Margaret Timbers	Bright Mulatto	Female	2 years	1593		None	84	Proved to be free by the oath of Margaret Dorrell and daughter of Margaret Timbers									
1076	Timbers, James William	Dark Mulatto	Male	22 years	2007		5 feet 5 1/2 inches tall with a scar near the right eyebrow and two or three small scars below the right eye	157-158	Proved to be free by the oath of Jonah Purcell									
1077	Timbers, James William	Bright Mulatto	Male	28 years	2256		5 feet 6 inches tall with a scar on the right side of his face near the eyebrow and two or three scars on the right cheek	269-270	Proved to be free by the oath of Emanuel Waltman									
1078	Timbers, Lydia Ellen- child of Ann Timbers	Bright Mulatto	Female	4 years	2255		Has a scar on the forehead	269	Child of Ann Timbers and proved to be free by the oath of Catharine Wilt									
							5 feet 1/2 inch with a slight scar near halfway up the middle of the forehead and a small scar on the inside of the left		Proved to be free by the oath of Margaret Dorrell and mother of Ann Maria Timbers, Betsy Timbers, and Margaret									

Master List

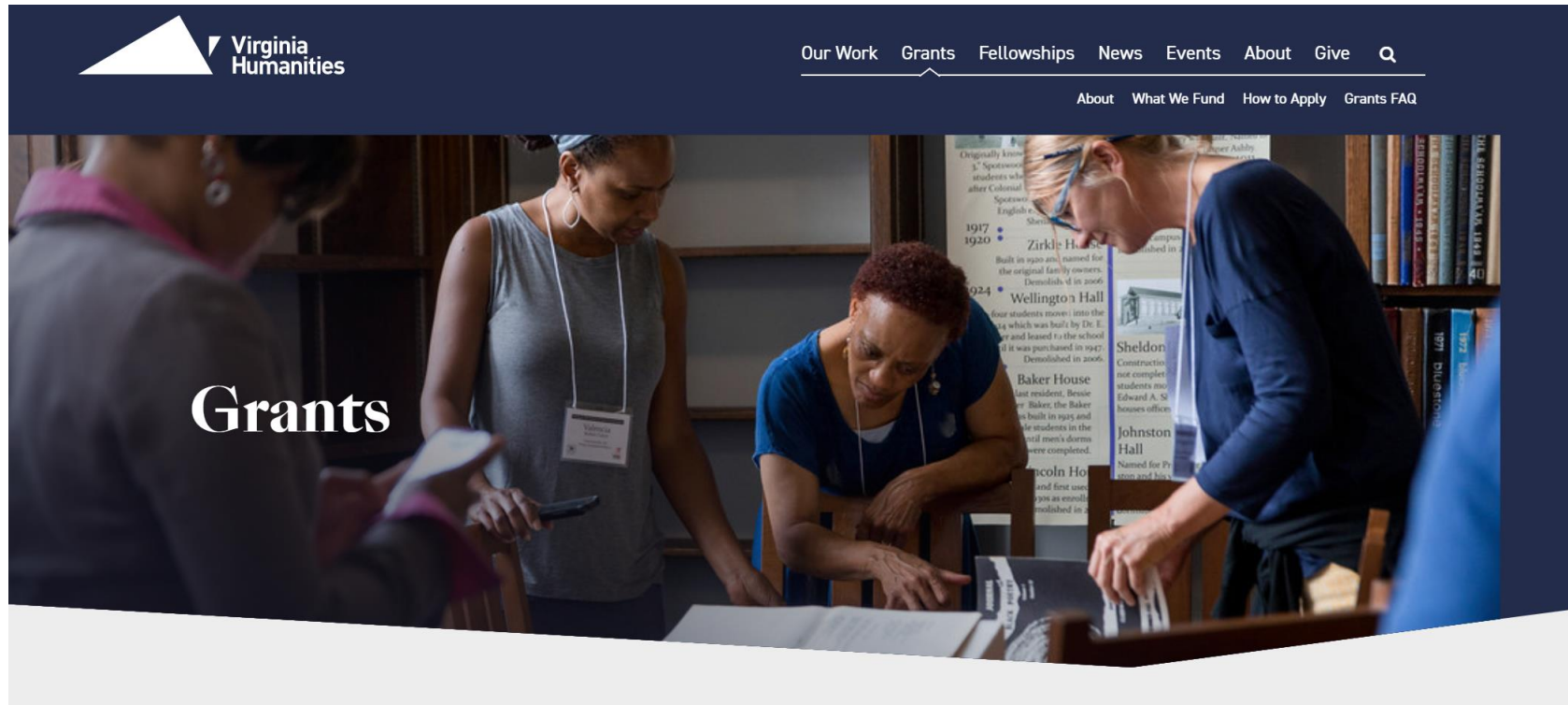
Sheet1

READY



Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens, Clerk
Historic Records & Deed Research Division

Funding- Matching Grant From Virginia Humanities



Grant provided funding for:

- Scanning of 9,686 pages of records in TIF, JPEG and PDF Format
- Public program on the conservation of the Free Black Records and Historical Value to Researchers and Family Genealogy



Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens
Historic Records & Deed Research Division

Scanning



Documents were scanned @300dpi and converted to:

- PDFs
- Jpegs
- Tiff



Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens, Clerk
Historic Records & Deed Research Division



Base Born

Historical Birth & Death Records 1853-1917

Black History

Business Licenses

Chancery Cases

Historic Records: Criminal Cases

[Home](#) > [Departments & Offices](#) > [Courts & Judicial Services](#) > [Clerk of the Circuit Court](#) > [Historic Records & Deed Research](#) > [Historic Records Indexes](#) > **Black History**

Black History

Enslaved Issues: 1757 to 1866

- [Enslaved Papers 1757 to 1865 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Enslaved Issues: Births 1853 to 1859 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Enslaved Issues: Chancery Cases 1757-1835 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Enslaved Issues: Chancery Cases 1836-1850 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Enslaved Issues: Chancery Cases 1851-1866 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Enslaved Issues: Criminal Paper References \(PDF\)](#)
- [Enslaved Issues: Deaths 1853 to 1866 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Enslaved Issues: Fiduciary References \(PDF\)](#)
- [Enslaved Issues: Misc. Paper References \(PDF\)](#)

Deeds

Marriage Records

Judgments

Military Indexes

Miscellaneous Papers

Guardian Accounts

Wills

Road Cases

Free Black Papers: 1757 to 1866

Use the indexes below to obtain the accession or page number of the image you'd like to view. Then click the appropriate link in the images section to find your image.

Indexes

- [Free Black Papers 1757 to 1865 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Free Black Issues: Births 1853 to 1866 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Free Black Issues: Criminal Papers References \(PDF\)](#)
- [Free Black Issues: Deaths 1853 to 1866 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Free Black Issues: Misc. Papers References \(PDF\)](#)
- [Record of Free Negroes 1844 to 1861 \(PDF\)](#)

Images

- [Free Black Issues: Births](#)
- Free Black Issues: Criminal Papers
 - [1796 - 1834](#)
 - [1835 - 1847](#)
 - [1848 - 1860](#)
- [Free Black Issues: Deaths](#)
- Free Black Issues: Misc. Papers
 - [1759 - 1820](#)
 - [1821 - 1838](#)
 - [1839 - 1866](#)
- [Record of Free Negroes 1844 to 1861](#)

For more Black History records check out the Library of Virginia's [Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative](#).



Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens, Clerk
Historic Records & Deed Research Division



Historic Records Event Survey

Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey below. Information provided can help us provide a better experience in the future. We hope you enjoyed today's event and thank you for your feedback.

Program Title *

Expanded Access to History: Digitization of Loudoun's Free Black

Overall, how satisfied were you with this event? *

What did you like best about this event?

What did you like least about this event?

Do you have suggestions for improving future programs?

How did you first learn about this event?

Submit



Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens
Historic Records & Deed Research Division